



**REPUBLIC**  
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

## Shaping a Circular Economy

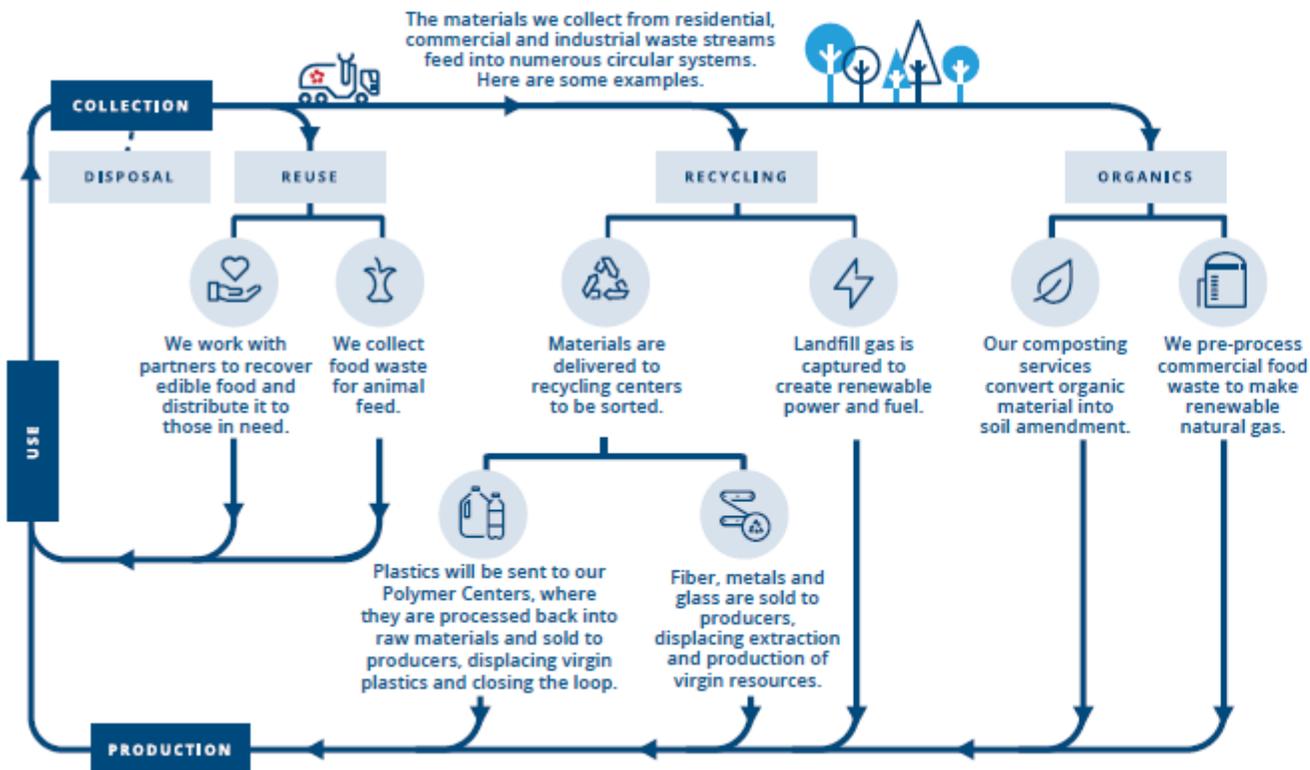
Today, our economy is linear — we use the Earth's materials; we create products from them; then we throw them away. Only about a third of America's waste is recycled, and plastics, in particular, are often downcycled into textiles or carpet instead of a new bottle or jug. These downcycled products have few options for further recycling, so their lifecycle tends to be finite — not circular. Our goal is to grow our circular economy — one where we use recycled resources to create products and, when we're finished, we recycle them for use again.

Republic Services set an ambitious goal to increase recovery and circularity of key materials by 40% on a combined basis by 2030. We're doing this in three main ways:

1. By continually investing in our recycling facilities
2. By leading the way in organics recycling
3. By building a network of Polymer Centers

**Creating a circular economy is challenging but achievable with investment and commitment. Republic Services has the infrastructure and focus on sustainability to affect real change.**

The materials we collect from residential, commercial and industrial waste streams feed into numerous circular systems. Here are some examples.





## Investing in our recycling facilities

Many factors play a role in how and what consumers recycle — from changing packaging designs, to shifting shopping habits, to confusion over which items can be recycled.

- ✓ Republic Services has 71 recycling facilities across the country, which process 5 million tons of materials annually.
- ✓ We invested \$54M in 2021 toward optimizing our facilities, modernizing our optical sorting technology and upgrading our equipment to accurately capture valuable recyclables.
- ✓ Our Recycling Simplified program educates customers about contamination and how they can become more efficient recyclers.



## Leading the way in organics recycling

Food and yard waste make up a third of the material that's sent to landfills, but through diversion and recycling, it can become circular.

- ✓ Republic Services is a leading provider of organics recycling, with 3 commercial food waste pre-processing lines, 12 compost facilities and 4 green waste processing facilities. In 2021, we processed more than 2 billion pounds of food and yard waste.
- ✓ Recycling organic waste into compost creates a nutrient-rich soil amendment, which helps preserve natural resources and reduces water consumption. The compost produced at our facilities is used by the agriculture and landscaping industries.
- ✓ Organics pre-processing removes contamination. The clean material then goes to a wastewater treatment digester or an anaerobic digestion facility and can be used to generate renewable energy.



## Opening the Republic Services Polymer Center

While an aluminum can is generally recycled back into a new can, a water bottle or detergent jug is more likely to be “downcycled” at a lower quality, making the plastic harder to recapture. Republic Services has a solution to this circularity problem.

- ✓ Republic Services Polymer Center, opening in Las Vegas in 2023, is North America's first integrated plastics recycling facility, enabling us to manage the plastics stream from curbside collection to delivery of consumer packaging.

### The Polymer Center offers:

- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Traceability
- ✓ Specificity in design
- ✓ Improved circularity
- ✓ Higher capture/diversion rates
- ✓ A 100% domestic solution
- ✓ A free service for our customers



## Learn more about our circular economy projects



RECYCLING  
SIMPLIFIED



SUSTAINABILITY  
IN ACTION



POLYMER  
CENTER